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REMARKS

Claims 22-28 are now pending in the application. Claim 22 is the only independent claim. Claims 22 and 23 have been amended and Claims 25-28 have been added.

Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,652,515 (Maguire et al.) in view of US Patent 5,741,248 (Stern).

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments, the outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent Claim 22, as amended herein, is directed to a method of reducing atrial fibrillation including inserting a catheter at least partially into the heart, the catheter having *a dual balloon structure, including an outer balloon and an inner balloon contained within the outer balloon*, a portion of the dual balloon structure located in the left atrium and a portion of the dual balloon structure located in a pulmonary vein, and inflating at least the outer balloon with a perfluorocarbon such that an exterior surface of the outer balloon is in contact with at least a partial circumference of the portion of the pulmonary vein adjacent the left atrium, the perfluorocarbon having a temperature in the range of about -10°C to 50°C.

Maquire and Stern fail to teach or suggest a method of reducing atrial fibrillation including a catheter having a dual balloon structure as recited in Claim 1, which provides for a more robust design and provides significant safety advantages.

The newly-added dependent Claims 25-28 further define the method of Claim 22, and specifically recite that the inner balloon is inflated with a biocompatible liquid, that is static (i.e., not circulated), that may contain contrast media, and that the biocompatible cooling fluid in the inner balloon chills the biocompatible fluid between the dual balloons.

Since the Applicants have fully responded to the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above remarks that the pending application is patentable over the art of record and prompt review and issuance is accordingly requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the

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application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,


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